

# FROM THE DEN

Vol. 28, No. 5  
October/November 2006

St. Charles, Illinois

Strength Through Community

Donald P. DeWitte, Mayor

## Inside this issue...

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see separate insert  
inside.

**First Street Project  
Update** - see *The Den* .  
... *In Focus* insert.

**Gallery of  
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**Scarecrow Fest**  
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Happenings* insert.

**City Web Site:**  
[www.stcharlesil.gov](http://www.stcharlesil.gov)

**Community  
Web Site:**  
[www.st-charles.il.us](http://www.st-charles.il.us)

**City Hall  
Office Hours:**  
Monday – Friday  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Utility Billing  
and Building &  
Zoning  
Office Hours:**  
Monday  
8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Tuesday – Friday  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Fire Prevention Week



National Fire Prevention Week 2006 is October 8-14. The Fire Department will visit elementary schools this week and next to promote this national campaign “Watch What You Heat.” We’ll be spreading the word that most residential fires start in the kitchen, showing kids and their families how to keep cooking fires from starting. Children will also be reminded about the importance of smoke detectors, a home escape plan, and safety around matches, lighters, and other sources of flame in the home. More information on fire safety can be obtained on the NFPA website at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

**City offices  
will be closed  
Nov. 23 and 24 for  
the Thanksgiving  
holiday. Refuse  
collection will  
not be affected  
by this holiday  
since all pickups  
are completed by  
Wednesday.**

The St. Charles Fire Department will host an open house on October 15 at Fire Station #1, 105 N. 1st Ave., from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. Visitors can see safety and rescue demonstrations, talk with firefighters, and pick up safety information from the Fire Department or vendors participating in the event. Visit the Fire Department web site at [www.stcharlesil.gov/fd](http://www.stcharlesil.gov/fd) or call (630) 377-4457 for more information.

Remember to change your smoke detector batteries when Daylight Savings Time ends and you change your clocks on October 29. Senior or special needs citizens in need of smoke or carbon monoxide detectors, or requiring assistance with changing their batteries, can call the Fire Department at (630) 377-4457.

## The Cost for Power in 2007

Many have read or heard about the power auctions and predictions about what these auctions will mean to the cost of electricity. Customers of the St. Charles Municipal Electric Utility will not be affected by these auctions.

The auctions only affect the state’s investor-owned utilities, such as Commonwealth Edison and the Ameren companies. These companies need a new source of power to replace their current power contracts, which end the last day of December. The power auction is the

state mandated method. The St. Charles Municipal Electric system is not required to buy its power through the auction. Our power will be purchased from the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA) at an estimated rate of 5.2 cents per kilowatt hour (the auction rate was 6.5 cents per kilowatt hour without additional delivery fees). The long-term IMEA contract provides a stably priced source of power.

Please call the St. Charles Electric Utility at (630) 377-4407 with questions or concerns.

# Welcome New Businesses!

Remember to shop local and visit [www.stcharlesil.gov/edd](http://www.stcharlesil.gov/edd) for a complete listing of local businesses.

sold will include vehicles, bicycles, and much more. Items may be viewed and examined beginning at 8 A.M. the day of the sale. The auction will start at 9 A.M.



## Leaf Collection

The leaf collection schedule and map has been included in this issue of From the Den as a separate insert. Please contact the Public Works office at (630) 377-4405 with additional questions, or visit the newsletter online at [www.stcharlesil.gov/news](http://www.stcharlesil.gov/news) to download a copy of this flyer or link to the Leaf Collection page of the web site.

Business Name	Address	Phone #
Advisory Mtge. & Fin. Svcs.	311 N. 2nd St., Ste. 303	762-0494
Coney Island West	8 N. 3rd St.	513-0204
Draper & Kramer Mtge.	3755 E. Main St., Ste. 152	797-7224
Figo Ristorante	220 Cedar St.	587-9595
Flexicorps Temp./Perm. Staffing	1652 E. Main Ste., Ste. 150	377-1001
Healthfirst Chiropractic	1700 Lincoln Hwy., Ste. F	587-5824
Janina's Café	1550 E. Main St.	444-1670
Jared's Automotive	3540 E. Stern Ave., Ste. 102	377-2004
KFC/Pizza Hut	3843 E. Main St.	513-8047
Knights Court	113 W. Main St.	444-1888
Komet Motorsports, Inc.	1500 Foundry St., Ste. 9	584-5400
Law Office of Rachel Hess	525 Tyler, Ste. Q2	204-0277
Liquid Dynamics Corporation	2011 W. Dean St.	513-8366
LSI Lowery Systems, Inc.	3755 E. Main St., Ste. 165	444-7616
Maui Wowi	2734 E. Main St.	584-6284
Mercedes Benz of St. Charles	220 N. Randall Rd.	584-2300
Physiomed, S.C. Chiropractic	1601 E. Main St., Ste. D	584-2300
Pinnacle Perf School	2015 E. Dean St., Ste. 7	779-9908
Pottawatomie Popcorn Co.	12 N 3rd St.	809-7901
Prime Dollar	3800 E. Main St., Ste. G206	
Thai Country Restaurant	11 N. 3rd St.	444-1699
Tri City Neurology SC	2210 Dean St., Ste. D	587-2068

Featured items at the auction will include three 1997 IHC diesel dump trucks, light duty trucks, several automobiles, a 1994 Case 580SK backhoe, a 1971 John Deere 570A grader, a 1983 Caterpillar 930 endloader and a Layton paver. Numerous vehicles will be sold in addition to the three pieces of equipment.






Buyers may pay with cash, certified checks, or money orders. All items must be paid in full and removed by 1 P.M. that day, Saturday, October 21, 2006.

For additional information, please visit the City's website at [www.stcharlesil.gov/fi](http://www.stcharlesil.gov/fi), where a complete listing of auction items and some photos will be posted, or call (630) 762-7070.

## Why Urban Trees?




Following are some benefits of urban trees, compliments of the St. Charles Tree Commission:

-  Trees improve air quality by lowering the temperature, increasing humidity, absorbing pollutants and filtering articulates. They provide shade in the summer and wind breaks in the winter, reducing energy consumption.
-  Trees reduce stormwater runoff and erosion. The leafy canopies catch precipitation, and the roots hold soil in place. Decaying leaves allows water to percolate into the soil.
-  Trees are good for the economy, enhancing the resale value of property and helping shoppers linger longer.
-  Trees create habitats for plants and animals, providing food and shelter for birds and other wildlife.
-  Trees improve human health, reducing stress, soothing tempers, preserving privacy, and muffling sound.

## City Auction October 21, 2006

The City of St. Charles will hold its annual auction on Saturday, October 21, 2006, at the City garage. Items to be

 Trees enhance a sense of social identity, self-esteem, and ownership. Urban forestry promotes environmental responsibility and ethics.

## The Buzz on Building Permits

Thinking about a home remodeling project? Even homeowners who do the project themselves need a building permit. Every home is an investment. A construction project that does not comply with adopted codes could reduce the value of that investment, especially when it comes time to sell. Improvements that were made without a permit may have to be removed, repaired or altered before a sale. Permits also allow City code officials to protect families and future occupants by reducing potential hazards of unsafe construction and ensuring public health, safety and welfare.

The best way to find out if you need a permit for a project is to call the Building and Zoning Division at (630) 377-4406. Following are some examples of required permits:

- New buildings
- Additions to homes or businesses
- Inside remodeling of a home or business (kitchen, bathroom, basement, etc.)

- New, repair, or replacement decks, fences, sheds, and garages
- Lawn sprinkler
- Re-roofing
- Replacing windows, doors, or siding
- Installing a swimming pool or hot tub
- Installing a hot water heater, water softener, furnace, or air conditioner
- Electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems

## Flood Insurance

Flooding is not covered by normal homeowners insurance but is available. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) provides protection for property owners against flood loss while working with communities to develop flood plain management programs. Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) identify areas of high risk and are available at the St. Charles Library or the St. Charles Engineering Office, (630) 377-4486. As always, be aware of drainage conditions near your home and make sure drainage ways are clear of debris. Dumping or filling in drainage ways (streams, channels, and swales) is prohibited. Violations should be reported to Public Works at (630) 377-4405. Landscapers may help with lot regrading, altering the direction of roof drain downspouts, or other alternatives that may reduce minor yard flooding.

## City Services Reminders

- Questions or requests for City services may be submitted online using the City's **Customer Service Request (CSR)** system. Visit [www.stcharlesil.gov](http://www.stcharlesil.gov) and click on the link in the bottom right corner of the page labeled 'CSR.'
- **Daylight Savings Time** ends Sunday, October 29, 2006. Remember to turn your clocks back one hour and change your smoke detector batteries.
- **Resident Guides** are available to all residents upon request. Filler pages are available for those with a binder. Call 377-4400 or email [info@stcharlesil.gov](mailto:info@stcharlesil.gov) for a guide or updated filler pages.
- **City utility bills** can be viewed and paid online. Visit [www.stcharlesil.gov](http://www.stcharlesil.gov) and click on the link to the right labeled 'Utility Bills Online.'
- The **24-hour number** for electric outages or after-hours electric/water/sewer service is **(630) 443-3681**.
- The City's **curbside recycling program** includes household batteries and used motor oil (place batteries in a plastic bag and oil in a milk jug and set next to recycling bin). Books and electronics are collected monthly on the second Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon, behind the Kane County Clerk's office on Randall Rd. by Kane County Env. Mgmt.
- This information and much more is available at [www.stcharlesil.gov](http://www.stcharlesil.gov).

## City References

Donald P. DeWitte  
Mayor  
377-4444  
mayor@stcharlesil.gov

### Aldermen

**Dan Stellato, Ward 1**  
377-3723  
dstellato@stcharlesil.gov

**Ron Silkaitis, Ward 1**  
584-1904  
rsilkaitis@stcharlesil.gov

**Betsy Penny, Ward 2**  
584-9693  
bpenny@stcharlesil.gov

**Cliff Carrignan, Ward 2**  
584-4975  
ccarrignan@stcharlesil.gov

**John McGuirk, Ward 3**  
584-2689  
jmcguirk@stcharlesil.gov

**Bill Turner, Ward 3**  
650-8039  
wturner@stcharlesil.gov

**Jim Martin, Ward 4**  
584-8378  
aldrmartin@stcharlesil.gov

**Jo Krieger, Ward 4**  
584-4392  
jkrieger@stcharlesil.gov

**Don Haines, Ward 5**  
377-7328  
dhaines@stcharlesil.gov

**David Richards, Ward 5**  
377-6521  
davidrichards@  
stcharlesil.gov

This issue of *From the Den* was delivered by Door to Door Direct. Please call (630) 377-4917 with questions, comments, or if your delivery was not satisfactory.

**St. Charles Municipal Center**  
**2 E. Main Street, St. Charles, IL 60174**  
**(630) 377-4400**

### Billing - Electric/Water/Sewer

Turn Ons & Turn Offs .....377-4426  
Building & Zoning .....377-4406  
City Admin./Clerk .....377-4422  
Electric Division .....377-4407

### Electric/Water/Sewer Emergency

**after 5 p.m. and weekends .....443-3681**  
**Emergency ..... 911**  
Engineering .....377-4486  
Emergency Management Agency .....377-4416  
Flood Prot. Assist. and Map Eng. ....377-4486  
Finance/Accounting .....762-7002  
Fire Administration .....377-4458  
Fire Prevention Bureau .....377-4457  
Human Resources .....377-4446  
Mayor Donald P. DeWitte .....377-4444  
Police Admin./Invest./Crime Prev.....377-4435  
Public Works-Water/Sewer/Street.....377-4405  
Community Development .....377-4443  
Economic Development .....443-4093  
Refuse Pickup Info. (Onyx) .....587-8282  
TDD ..... 800-526-0844

### Community Numbers

Animal Control .....232-3555  
Chamber of Commerce .....584-8384  
Heritage Center .....584-6967  
Visitors Bureau.....377-6161  
Downtown St. Charles Partnership .....513-5386

### MEETING SCHEDULE

Meeting	Oct.	Nov.
<b>CITY COUNCIL</b>	2 & 16	6 & 20
<b>PLAN COMMISSION</b> review & hold public hearings for rezoning, special use & new developments	3 & 17	7 & 21
<b>PLANNING &amp; DEVELOPMENT</b> zoning, annexation, boundary lines, downtown, comprehensive plan, code enforcement	9	13
<b>GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**</b> budget, personnel, insurance, economic development, administration	2 & 16	6 & 20
<b>GOVERNMENT SERVICES</b> utilities, city property, streets, sidewalks, sewers, water, parking lots, stormwater	23	27
<b>HISTORIC PRESERVATION</b> review facade impr. & bldg. permits for exterior work within historic dist.	4 & 18	1 & 15
<b>TREE COMMISSION</b> manage city owned trees (trimming, Tree City USA, disease & pestilence, etc.)	11	8
<b>YOUTH COMMISSION*</b> direct services & grants to support the welfare of the City's youth	2	6
<b>CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION</b> aesthetic improvements to City's corridors	5	2 & 16
<b>HOUSING COMMISSION</b> preserve affordable homes, address housing issues/needs, promote awareness	10	14
<i>All meetings start at 7 p.m. unless noted: *Starts at 6 p.m.    ** Starts at 7:05 p.m. or immediately after the City Council meeting.</i>  <i>Please call the Mayor's Office at (630) 377-4445 to confirm a meeting, or log on to <a href="http://www.stcharlesil.gov/">www.stcharlesil.gov/</a> meetings for meeting schedule, agendas and minutes.</i>		



## What's on your mind?

Your advice, suggestions and questions are valued and encouraged by the Mayor and City Council. To assure a response, please include your name and address below. Mail to: City Administrator's Office, 2 E. Main St., St. Charles, IL 60174, or email to: CAO@stcharlesil.gov.

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_